

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S.-MEXICO BORDER FIELD COORDINATING COMMITTEE (FCC)

1995-98 Accomplishments



Fact Sheet

THE FCC: The United States-Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee (FCC) is composed of field representatives from seven bureaus within the Department of the Interior. The bureaus are the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, US Geological Survey, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The FCC promotes, facilitates and enhances communications and coordination between and among member bureaus and offices with respect to environmental issues of interest and concern to the Department. The FCC is also a contact point available for those outside the Department who have an interest in natural and cultural resource issues along the border.

1995-98 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The FCC provided support for the international conference "Celebration of Desert Cultures" held in Caborca, Sonora, Mexico, March 2-5, 1995.
- In April 1995, the FCC completed the "United States Department of the Interior Criteria and Guidelines for Evaluating Projects and U.S.-Mexico Border Activities," in English and Spanish. This comprehensive document was prepared at the request of the newly established Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC) to assist it in developing criteria and establishing guidelines for evaluating border projects that it was established to certify.
- FCC member bureaus supported and participated in United States-Mexico Border States Conferences on Recreation, Parks, and Wildlife held in Brownsville, Texas; Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico; and Tucson, Arizona; in 1995, 1997 and 1998, respectively.
- In 1995 and subsequent years, the National Park Service has provided opportunities for participation by bureaus within the Department in its "Getting to Know Mexico" binational training course and others.
- In 1995, a one-time appropriation of \$33,000 was provided to the Tohono O'odham Nation, through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to repair its southern boundary fence along the United States-Mexico border.
- In February 1996, Water-Resources Issues Fact Sheet No. 1 was printed describing the "United States-Mexico Border Area, as delineated by a shared-water resources perspective." This was the first in a series of Fact Sheets that define the basic hydrologic and geologic information, data deficiencies, and major issues to make critical decisions for environment and natural resource protection on the border.
- On May 6, 1996, during the 13th annual meeting of the Binational Commission, in Mexico City, Secretary Babbitt, Department of the Interior, and the US Geological Survey signed a US-Mexico Aerial Photography Agreement with Julia Carabias, Secretary of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP), and the Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía e Informática.
- FCC Bureaus provided financial support and other contributions to the first and second International Conferences on Natural Resources and Cultural Heritage sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, in September 1996, and at Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, in November 1997, respectively.
- In September 1996, the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service sponsored a field training session with Mexican counterparts on both the US and Mexican portions of the Upper San Pedro River Basin. A binational